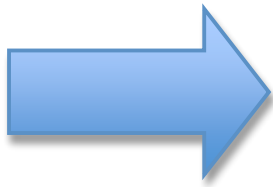


ESSAY



STORY

You have researched a topic, gathered information, and organized your facts into an essay. But, what did you learn from your research?

I learned that _____

Creating a story forces us to answer this question.

Stories are more than a collection of facts. In a story, you now get to include your personal voice, your opinions and thoughts about the topic.

An essay is meant to be informative while a story is meant to be *informative AND persuasive*. A story should leave the reader/audience caring about the topic.

Stories need a focus question to answer. For example, “**Why is Zimbabwe one of the poorest countries in Africa?**” is a good example. “**How does Zimbabwe now find itself paying \$150,000 for a roll of toilet paper?**” is an even better one.

Many essays can easily be converted to a persuasive story by using one of these following strategies:

Show **cause/effect** (eg. of increases/decreases in population, disease, employment or environment)

Analyze/persuade (eg. a current political, health, economic or environmental problem) **similar to cause/effect, but you take a stand on the issue*

Compare/contrast (eg. cultural tradition, educational system)

Describe/conclude (eg. economic conditions)

Look at your thesis statement. Try to convert it to a question that would follow one of the above strategies.

You do not need to include all the parts of your thesis statement.

Length: You will take your 3-5 page essay and turn it into a ONE page 3-4 paragraph story.

Use this template to help you frame your story.

Focus Question:

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Supporting detail: _____

Your opinion: _____

Supporting detail: _____

Your opinion: _____

Supporting detail: _____

Your opinion: _____